

He comes from Northern Illinois University, in the Speaker's district. The Speaker said he had no involvement in this, which I believe to be true.

But the question is, how does a known anti-Semite walk on the plane of the United States Government with the Secretary of State as a representative of a presidential delegation, representing the American people, who constantly and consistently has published and speaks out in a vile way, in my view, against the Jewish people and yet nobody from the State Department to the White House or anybody else involved can tell us how he got there or who recommended him? And yet he represented the United States, and I would assume some would say our values of democracy, while in the Ukraine as a part of that delegation and yet consistently refuses to back away from comments that, in my view, are just one individual's take, are neither pro to the Jewish people or to those who border, in my view, on anti-Semitism.

□ 1945

It is ironic that the professor who has done the best job of summing up the issue, because he wrote criticisms of Jews, and I am quoting him, "All of a sudden I do not have a right to be a part of the American delegation?" I could not have said it better myself. The United States should not and does not condone anti-Semitism or discrimination of any kind.

Allowing a known anti-Semite to represent America, which I find ironic on the same week that we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, is an embarrassment and a contradiction of all of our values regardless of party.

Mr. Speaker, the issue before us is how did the professor get on the plane and who recommended him to represent the United States of America? We deserve an answer. And in the letter I ask the Secretary of State to provide that answer and to look into this. And I look forward to that answer so we can clear up the question of how a professor who does not hide his views when it comes to the Jewish people was selected to represent the United States with the Secretary of State on an official plane in an official delegation, whose views are abhorrent to our values of decency and respect for people of diverse ethnicity.

AMERICAN MEDIA SHOWS PESSIMISM REGARDING IRAQI ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, you know, when Ronald Reagan was President, he told a story of the difference between an optimist and a pessimist. And he used the example of two little boys who were put into a room

full of horse manure. And the one little boy started crying very viciously, very seriously, because there were not any toys in the room. And the other little boy was digging around happy as a lark.

And they asked him, why are you so happy? And he said, with all of this horse manure in here, there has got to be a pony here somewhere.

The reason Reagan told that story was because he wanted people to realize that optimism is something that everybody should try to acquire in their lives and look at the positive things. And during his administration, he was so optimistic that he changed the whole attitude of the American people and made the 8 years of his administration a real success.

I would like to contrast that, if you will, with what we have seen in the last couple of days. Sixty percent of the people of Iraq went to the polls to vote knowing that some of them might be killed. A lot of people wonder if that would happen here in America.

In America we have what, 30, 40, 50 percent of the people vote if we are very lucky, and we do not have any guns pointed at anybody. And yet in Iraq these people knew their lives were in jeopardy, and they still put their finger in that ink and held it up for the people to see in the cameras so they could take pictures, because they were proud that they had a chance to show their freedom.

They were optimistic, very optimistic like Ronald Reagan talked about, for the future of Iraq. And yet last night when I watched the news, I watched several of the major news networks, and I will not go into their names tonight, but it is the same people that you hear all the time.

They were once again pointing out all of the things that went wrong in Iraq during the elections, and all of the problems that lay ahead of us, and how this is just a first step in a long series of steps that have to be taken; and they were not celebrating at all this tremendous step toward democracy and freedom that took place in one of the toughest spots in the whole wide world.

And I would just like to say to my friends in the media, that was a great thing that happened. Sixty percent of the people who lived under a tyrannical leader for years and years, who suffered torture and heartache for decades, finally had a chance to vote; and even though they were doing it with guns being pointed in their direction, people being blown up, and people being beheaded, they took the chance and went and voted, 60 percent of them. They are optimists. And I just wish the national media would realize it and become optimistic themselves.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CLOSING OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the announcement was made last week that a high school in my congressional district, Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in Westchester, Illinois, would be closing its doors at the end of this school year. This closure indicates the end of an era in the Chicago western suburbs and for single-sex education due to a record low enrollment in 2004, and a significant drop in the number of people sitting for the entrance exam in January of 2005.

The school administration made the difficult decision to close this spring.

Since 1961, Immaculate Heart of Mary has offered a rigorous, single-sex, college preparatory education for young women throughout Chicago and the western suburbs. Over 6,000 women have benefited from the education offered by IHM since its inception. Teachers and staff have dedicated themselves to fostering a diverse community aimed towards achieving academic excellence and building a Christian community made up of empowered young women.

IHM has been successful both academically and in its extracurricular activities. Athletic successes include a State championship in basketball in 1987. The students of IHM have been involved in many other extracurricular activities such as Model United Nations and Students Against Drunk Driving. In 1996, IHM received the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Award in recognition of their academic superiority. IHM is the only all-women school in the State of Illinois to receive this award.

The school's president, Karen Ristau, has led a dedicated staff of approximately 30 teachers and administrators in fulfilling IHM's motto: "Every student has the need to become what she has the ability to become." I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to both Ms. Ristau and the entire staff of IHM for their years of dedication to the education of young women in Illinois. The community, current students, and past graduates are grateful for the commitment of the administration and staff.

By deciding to open its doors to women next fall, St. Joseph High